

Congressman Tom Davis
Chairman, House Government Reform Committee
Introduction of Clean Sports Act of 2005
May 24, 2005

I'm very pleased to be here with my Ranking Member on the Government Reform Committee, Henry Waxman, and Senator John McCain, who has long been a leader in trying to keep our sports clean.

Two months ago, the Government Reform Committee held our first hearing on steroids, looking into the use of performance-enhancing drugs in Major League Baseball. We followed that up with hearings on the National Football League and the National Basketball Association.

We have learned a lot. We know that more than half a million high school students have used steroids. We know that even younger kids are trying steroids, including young girls – some to improve their athletic performance, some to improve their body image.

We know this is a national public health crisis.

We are here today to announce the introduction of legislation that is aimed at not only getting rid of performance enhancing drugs on the professional level, but also to send a message loud and clear to the young people of America: Steroids are illegal. Steroids are dangerous. They can be deadly. And there is no place for them in our sports leagues or on our school grounds.

Our legislation applies to the four major American sports – but we also empower the director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy to require compliance among other professional sports and NCAA Division I and II sports.

The Clean Sports Act sets tough minimum standards for what substances and methods must be tested for, and for penalties for violations. We ensure that our professional sports will have standards at least as tough as the Olympics.

We guarantee due process for those who test positive. And we establish a commission, as well as mandate a GAO report, to look into the use of performance-enhancing drugs at the high school and college levels.

This is comprehensive, tough, and necessary legislation.